

1

2

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

3

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATION ADMINISTRATION

4

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

5

- - - - -X

6

IN THE MATTER OF: :

7

Event: Alumni Hoop Loop :

8

Bar Crawl Neighborhood :

9

Multiple Licensed Premises :

10

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 :

11

- - - - -X

12

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

13

14

Whereupon, the above referenced matter

15

came on for hearing at the Alcoholic Beverage

16

Control Board, Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street,

17

N.W., Suite 400 S, Washington, D.C. 20009.

18

OLENDER REPORTING, INC.

1100 Connecticut Avenue N.W., #810, Washington, D.C. 20036

Washington: 202-898-1108 • Baltimore: 410-752-3376

Toll Free: 888-445-3376

1 CHAIRPERSON: DONOVAN ANDERSON, Presiding

2

3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

4 NICK ALBERTI, BOARD MEMBER

5 RUTHANNE MILLER, BOARD MEMBER

6 JAMES SHORT, BOARD MEMBER

7 MIKE SILVERSTEIN, BOARD MEMBER

8

9 OTHER PERSONS PRESENT

10 JENNIFER CURRIE, APPLICANT

11 KEVIN PUENTE, INVESTIGATOR

12

1

2

P R O C E E D I N G S

3

4

5

6

7

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: The next case on our calendar is another pub crawl, Jennifer Currie, date of event April 2, 2016. Please approach and identify yourself for the record, please.

8

9

MS. CURRIE: My name is Jennifer Currie and I'm with On Tap Magazine.

10

11

MR. PUENTE: Kevin Puente, Investigator.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And I assure you, Mr. Puente, that you will have an opportunity in this hearing to speak and I want the record to reflect that Ms. Currie -- that we had a pub crawl regulation last week, Ms. Currie was here and she testified. Prior to this hearing we had another pub crawl and regulations. I'm sorry -- another pub crawl hearing and Ms. Currie sat in the audience and she heard the board's expectations, so I'm hoping that we're not going to get to saying "I did not know" and "I did not know" because I'm not gonna deal with that today,

OLENDER REPORTING, INC.

1100 Connecticut Avenue N.W., #810, Washington, D.C. 20036

Washington: 202-898-1108 • Baltimore: 410-752-3376

Toll Free: 888-445-3376

1 I'm just going to put it out there. So, Mr.
2 Puente, what can you provide us?

3 MR. PUENTE: This pub crawl is stated for
4 Saturday, April 2nd, 2016 in the Dupont Golden
5 Triangle area. They hope to have 1000
6 participants capped at 1500 participants. It
7 runs from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. with two
8 registration locations. From 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
9 at Blackfinn and James Hobin's. They have 12
10 establishments participating.

11 After I checked all of the settlement
12 agreements and history, one establishment did not
13 participate. They had three primary violations
14 in two years. That is The Mad Hatter. They've
15 been in contact with the Golden Triangle bid and
16 received approval from them. They have a litter
17 plan in place with block by block that will clean
18 up all the litter. They tend to have security
19 along with a staff at each location. Can you
20 describe the role of the staff and security at
21 each location for us?

22 MS. CURRIE: Yes. We have two types of

1 security planned. We have paid, hired, unarmed
2 guards to be at each location. And if I could
3 clarify one thing, we don't know outside looking
4 in who's eligible to participate, so we listed 12
5 bars in the hopes of getting 10, so we really
6 only want that. And so the security -- there's
7 two parts to it. One is having the uniformed
8 officer at each door to provide a presence and to
9 help intervene if needed. The second is one of
10 our own staff members designated for each along
11 the way. It'll be one person at registration,
12 there'll be four people, and those staff members
13 will have T-shirts that clearly have big letters
14 that say STAFF and a lanyard, so if somebody has
15 questions or concerns or if they see any sort of
16 a situation unfolding, they can step in. And
17 that would help, hopefully, give the bar an
18 identifiable point of contact during the event.

19 MR. PUENTE: Will the staff contact you
20 if there's any issues?

21 MS. CURRIE: Yeah, we have two ways --
22 obviously we all carry cell phones and they can

1 contact me. My role in these things, and for the
2 record I know I came last week, but we're not
3 regular "putter onners" of bar crawls. We do,
4 though, host several very large events. My role
5 is always to be a floating supervisor. So, I'll
6 be walking the route the entire time but they
7 will have my contact information and then when
8 we've done large events like this in the past,
9 for example we used to take 1000 to 1200 people
10 to the Preakness up at Pimlico and I'm happy to
11 say we brought them all home. So what we do is
12 they all get a text code that they're given at
13 registration that they can text because we have a
14 text messaging platform. They can text it, it
15 will bounce back to them a list of contact
16 information.

17 MR. PUENTE: And each participant gets a
18 wrist band?

19 MS. CURRIE: Yes, everybody has a wrist
20 band. The designated drivers have a different
21 colored wrist band and they also will be
22 instructed that they can see the person with the

1 staff tee shirt so we can do complimentary sodas
2 and water for them and they can get a ticket they
3 can turn in to the bar.

4 MR. PUENTE: That's all I have, sir.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You have anything
6 else that you want to provide to us before I have
7 the board ask questions?

8 MS. CURRIE: I don't think so. I know we
9 were right at the 45 day mark and I will say --
10 well, I will say in defense, I suppose, but
11 they're gone, the litter plan was a challenging
12 piece. We had started reaching out in January to
13 ABRA ourselves and he -- I e-mailed quite a bit
14 with Sean Gordy, and I e-mailed saying "I know
15 the rules are changing;" and at that point it was
16 still -- I think the day I e-mailed them was the
17 day it changed. It was still the old application
18 on line saying, "please let me know, please keep
19 me posted" and I also reached out to several --
20 you know, I reached out to other companies and I
21 reached out to the Bin and it's worked out really
22 nicely, we use their clean-up team. But, just

1 for you to know, a lot of the trash companies
2 actually don't know the answer to the question
3 either, because it's not what they usually do.
4 So, just an FYI, that's been the hardest part.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: And this is my
6 concern, is that then I want you to say and
7 that's stated to the previous, "I didn't know in
8 January, I rechecked ABRA, however I was at the
9 hearing last week, this is what was told to me,
10 this is what I've done based on -- I didn't know
11 in January but at least I knew last week, and
12 this is what I've done. So if you came to me
13 today, say "I started this process, I wasn't
14 clear, but when I was at the pub crawl hearing
15 and I rechecked the bid, they haven't gotten back
16 to me" or "I've reached out to this company and
17 they haven't gotten back" I mean I would have --
18 MS. CURRIE: I mean, our location did, we already
19 had it in place before we turned it in.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Right.

21 MS. CURRIE: But just for your info.

22 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: But I'm saying --

1 and I agree with you, and I'm saying what I
2 expect. You can tell me that it was unclear, you
3 can say that to me, but if you were here for the
4 pub crawl hearing and then you can say to me, "I
5 was here last week, it was not clear, I tried to
6 get directions from the staff but they couldn't
7 give it to me, however when I was at the hearing
8 this is what I've got, and subsequent to the
9 hearing this is what I've done to comply with the
10 regulations," and I would be more sympathetic,
11 because I would understand, you can tell me that
12 yes, when you have something new, folks are not
13 gonna know. You're gonna ask questions and
14 you're gonna -- but at least if you sat here the
15 week before and you heard what we're asking for,
16 then I need you to tell me, "I did not know in
17 January, but after last week I knew and this is
18 what I have done since last week, and I've
19 contacted John, Mary, Sue on these dates, they
20 haven't contacted me back yet, but I am in the
21 process of formulating a plan" then I would be --
22 and that's me. I'm just one board member.

1 MS. CURRIE: We have a plan.

2 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Yeah. So I just
3 wanted to --

4 MS. CURRIE: That's not our problem.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: No, that's what
6 I'm saying, I just wanted to be clear what my
7 expectations are. I do understand it's new, and
8 so I will more err to listen to you and for you
9 to tell me what is it that you have done to
10 comply with the new regulations, that's all. But
11 I appreciate the clarification that you're
12 letting us know for the orders, it's a new area
13 and that you're trying to comply with it and one
14 thing I'll say to you is I've said to everyone
15 else, if you know that you have the dates and
16 times for your events, then you send it -- you
17 come to ABRA as soon as possible to get the date
18 because what I've seen is that the regulations
19 says is that if you want the date we might not
20 approve the event for the same date that someone
21 else does it. So, as soon as you have set the
22 date you need to come to us and have the date

1 locked in. Do you have any questions by any
2 other board members? Yes, Mr. Short.

3 MR. SHORT: First of all, I do commend
4 you for paying attention and coming with this
5 plan.

6 MS. CURRIE: Thank you.

7 MR. SHORT: Security. Just one -- just
8 one -- we're just a little picky about public
9 safety. You're gonna have security written on
10 those security persons, correct? Now, we also
11 have a lot of the establishments, ANC
12 establishments, who happen to have security
13 plans, they have to have security written on
14 their persons too. How much problem would it be
15 to put pub crawl security? Because your persons
16 will be on the street, correct? These security
17 persons. They won't be inside of the bar,
18 they'll be --

19 MS. CURRIE: They would be inside.

20 MR. SHORT: Okay.

21 MS. CURRIE: Yeah, our folks would be
22 inside, the hire people, that we're getting would

1 be inside because I don't think they have the
2 authority.

3 MR. SHORT: No, they don't have -- but
4 the only thing I would think the security on the
5 street may be guiding people from bar to bar or
6 somebody --

7 MS. CURRIE: Oh, I understand.

8 MR. SHORT: Okay. They could alert the
9 police if somebody's inebriated, stumbling toward
10 the street.

11 MS. CURRIE: Right.

12 MR. SHORT: Now, I'm thinking more along
13 those lines and anything get them with MPD
14 regulations. Again, public safety just happens
15 to be a pet peeve of mine and I'm thinking if
16 you're going to have security written on these
17 persons, how much problem would it be to put "pub
18 crawl security?"

19 MS. CURRIE: We were going to put staff,
20 not security, but it would not be a problem to
21 add the words pub crawl.

22 MR. SHORT: I think that would be great,

1 because that would differentiate them from the
2 clubs themselves.

3 MS. CURRIE: The front of the shirt will
4 have the picture of the pub crawl ticket.

5 MR. SHORT: That's good.

6 MS. CURRIE: Okay.

7 MR. SHORT: Those are identifiable marks
8 that probably save yourself and the
9 establishments because then if the establishment
10 security have the same shirts on as a patron I
11 might be confused, who is doing what so to have
12 these spread out. So this is April the 2nd?

13 MS. CURRIE: Mm hmm.

14 MR. SHORT: And your litter plan?

15 MS. CURRIE: We're using Block by Block
16 which is the company that the Golden Triangle BID
17 uses already for their cleanup team, and so what
18 they put in place is a fee per bar, so it's \$125
19 per bar and then they will clean from -- we start
20 at James Hobin's, which is New Hampshire Avenue,
21 right below Dupont Circle, we go down to
22 Blackfinn and that is at I Street, 1620 I Street.

1 They will clean between and across from all the
2 bars. Essentially, they'll return the
3 neighborhood to the state that they expect it to
4 always be in.

5 MR. SHORT: Well, again, let me
6 peripherally my, is to commend you and thank you
7 for working with us and hopefully your event will
8 prove that it would be a great successful one. I
9 find this to be very pleasing to myself as a
10 board member, to see that we have some people who
11 get it. Pub crawls have changed a little and we
12 want our city to stay safe and clean, we want you
13 to make money, we want the bar to make money.

14 MS. CURRIE: This all goes to security.

15 MR. SHORT: If you want to come back and
16 do it again, do it again -- but we want everybody
17 to do it safely and organized. Thank you for
18 working with us.

19 MS. CURRIE: Thank you.

20 MR. SHORT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Ms. Miller.

22 MS. MILLER: Okay, thank you. Okay, just

1 as far as what's before us, is there a litter
2 plan before us or just the description of --

3 MS. CURRIE: Right now, there's just the
4 description that we've hired the Block by Block
5 people.

6 MS. MILLER: Okay.

7 MS. CURRIE: They have a contract that
8 they've put together for me.

9 MS. MILLER: Okay.

10 MS. CURRIE: But they're actually having
11 their lawyer look at it first because it's a new
12 type of contract for them, but I will have it to
13 be able to submit to you.

14 MS. MILLER: Okay, when do you think?

15 MS. CURRIE: I will remind him that I need
16 it today.

17 MS. MILLER: Okay.

18 MS. CURRIE: I told him that today was my
19 fact finding --

20 MS. MILLER: Right.

21 MS. CURRIE: And he said he would get it
22 right to me. And he was doing the leg work with

1 DPW because they already have the relationship
2 with them because they already do maintain the
3 neighborhood.

4 MS. MILLER: Okay, that's great. I
5 assume that this may be the kind of -- somewhat
6 of a model for future Dupont Circle pub crawls?
7 I don't know but it sounds like it --

8 MS. CURRIE: I think the host, Patrick
9 Powell was here at the hearing and he's the one
10 who invited me to come to it last week and I
11 think that's there hope.

12 MS. MILLER: Yeah.

13 MS. CURRIE: We started out thinking also
14 if we're going to be having benefit of using the
15 neighborhood for our event, by using their
16 cleaning green time that puts funds back into the
17 neighborhood that's helping hosting, so I think
18 they see this. And I have a letter from Leonida
19 Daritas, who is the director, that she sees as
20 hopefully a way we can manage crawls in that
21 neighborhood going forward. Couldn't speak for
22 other neighborhood but they seemed to like this

1 approach.

2 MS. MILLER: Okay. That's good. Have
3 you done pub crawls?

4 MS. CURRIE: I don't typically do pub
5 crawls, no.

6 MS. MILLER: Okay, but you put together a
7 good application. I do have a couple of follow-
8 up questions on your petition and what you said,
9 so the security?

10 MS. CURRIE: Yes?

11 MS. MILLER: Are you providing all the
12 security as opposed to the individual
13 establishments providing their own security?

14 MS. CURRIE: I'm providing my own simply -
15 - they may choose to have their own as well and
16 they may have protocols in place that require
17 them to do so, but for me being responsible for
18 the event I always hire my own security.

19 MS. MILLER: So are they going -- what is
20 your security going to do? I mean is it going to
21 check IDs as people go in?

22 MS. CURRIE: No.

1 MS. MILLER: It's just for your -- oh go
2 ahead.

3 MS. CURRIE: It's more -- it's -- we told
4 the bars when we went to visit them and for the
5 record they all were very aware of the new rules
6 and said "we're very interested in participating
7 but until you're approved we can't say that we're
8 doing this." And so, when we went to see them,
9 we said to them, please say -- is it okay with
10 you if we have our own security person? They all
11 said that was fine. We do it for peace of mind
12 and ultimately it's me on the line for the event.

13 MS. MILLER: So what is -- what are they
14 going to do?

15 MS. CURRIE: They're there to help if by
16 chance there are people who, for example, got
17 into any kind of a tiff or anything like that,
18 they can step in and help break up arguments.
19 They can help us if somebody were to be
20 intoxicated. They can be a person who can help
21 deal with the situation.

22 MS. MILLER: Okay, and I assume they're

1 primarily there for the pub crawl patrons.

2 MS. CURRIE: Yes.

3 S. MILLER: Okay. If you -- you said
4 that you submitted 12 names -- are you only going
5 to use 10?

6 MS. CURRIE: Yes. We were hoping for only
7 10, we only would like to use 10 bars, but we
8 knew that it has to be approved by you and we
9 don't know who is eligible to participate, so we
10 gave you a list of 12 hoping that 10 would pass
11 the test.

12 MS. MILLER: Okay. I wouldn't want to
13 overstep my shoes, but I would say in general
14 when you get down to which ten you're going to
15 use that's at the point they should know which
16 ten so when the investigators are monitoring or
17 whatever that they'd have that. I think you
18 heard us talk about capacity last week.

19 MS. CURRIE: Yes.

20 MS. MILLER: And I'm just wondering if
21 when you decided on your numbers of 1000 to 1500
22 whether you made any calculations based on

1 capacity of the establishments or anything else.

2 MS. CURRIE: I did. I don't know exact
3 fire marshal capacity for each establishment and
4 I think I also pointed out last week it is sort
5 of a rolling flow of people, but in our
6 application which was before the hearing we put
7 500 people per registration location maximum. If
8 we were to go to 1500 attendees I honestly don't
9 think we will and we're now three weeks away,
10 then we would add a third registration point and
11 then the math of ten locations was roughly 100
12 people per establishment should everybody all be
13 in a bar at the same time.

14 MS. MILLER: Right.

15 MS. CURRIE: That isn't really how these
16 flow, but --

17 MS. MILLER: And what are the hours?

18 MS. CURRIE: It's from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00
19 p.m.

20 MS. MILLER: Oh, okay. So, it's not
21 likely that there are going to be a lot of other
22 people in the bars that time.

1 MS. CURRIE: No, the idea is that all the
2 funds for this go to the V Foundation for Cancer
3 Research and that was founded by Jim Valvano who
4 is a famous college basketball coach. So, this
5 is the Final Four weekend of March Madness,
6 that's the timing of it. The idea is that people
7 go in the afternoon in their school jerseys or
8 colors. The games start that evening at 6:30, so
9 our 8:00 end time actually anticipates at around
10 6:30 if they're a basketball fan they're at their
11 bar and they're staying to watch the game.

12 MS. MILLER: Okay. I think you talked
13 about not having any cups or anything or trash
14 that would contribute to trash. Are you having
15 any special glasses or anything ?

16 MS. CURRIE: We're not. The beer partner
17 that we have on this is Corona because this is
18 part of their national commitment for fund
19 raising to the foundation. I guess we're
20 fortunate. Their beer is in bottles at all these
21 places so, yes, they are going to need extra
22 trash cans in the places but there are no cups to

1 worry about or deal with.

2 MS. MILLER: That's great. Okay. I
3 guess my final point is I haven't really seen
4 people designating drivers with wrist bands which
5 I think is a great idea. I haven't seen it.
6 Maybe they do it but I haven't seen it.

7 MS. CURRIE: We're trying to think of how
8 do we know that they really are and they can have
9 a free soda.

10 MS. MILLER: Yeah, I think that's great.
11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. CURRIE: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Mr. Alberti.

14 MR. ALBERTI: I'll try to make this
15 quick. Did you list registration sites or have
16 you decided them?

17 MS. CURRIE: I did, well we requested that
18 it be Blackfinn and James Hobin's --

19 MR. ALBERTI: Okay.

20 MS. CURRIE: -- because those were the top
21 and the bottom of the route, but again we put
22 pending their eligibility.

1 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. Personally, I don't
2 know how the other people feel, other board
3 members feel, but I would ask that at least a
4 week ahead of time that you give us a final list
5 --

6 MS. CURRIE: Yes.

7 MR. ALBERTI: Of registration sites and
8 bars so that our investigators can plan, and they
9 can work it out with their staffs. So, your cap
10 is 1500. Are you going to sell more than 1500
11 tickets in hopes of getting fewer? The cap is
12 1500 tickets.

13 MS. CURRIE: Yeah, the cap is 1500, our
14 ticket system is set up that when you go to buy
15 your ticket you buy it for one of the
16 registration locations specifically and we just
17 had a discussion on this, we will not honor you
18 if you got to check in at Blackfinn and you show
19 up at James Hobin's, tough luck, start walking,
20 to manage our capacity. And, again, this is a
21 little bit different for us because it's a
22 fundraiser versus a revenue generator.

1 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. And the last is that
2 -- I'm going to let her finish. The area that
3 this pub crawl is going to encompass is that
4 within the Golden Triangle?

5 MS. CURRIE: Yes, it's within the Golden
6 Triangle.

7 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. So, it may be
8 spelled out in your contract but is it the plan
9 that the level of cleanup will adhere to the
10 standards of the Bin. Because you don't specify
11 exactly what's being cleaned up and where it's
12 being cleaned up and that sort of thing and I get
13 that because you're partnering with the Bin and
14 their cleanup and you're sort of enhancing their
15 efforts all so to speak.

16 MS. CURRIE: Right, right, what we are
17 doing is we are using the Bin back to bring the
18 Bin back to the standards that they require.

19 MR. ALBERTI: Okay. So, yeah, just
20 wanted to make sure that we all understood that.
21 Again, that's it. Thank you.

22 MS. CURRIE: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Any other
2 questions by any board members? I'm inclined to,
3 so I make a motion that we approve this pub crawl
4 application. Is there a second?

5 MR. SILVERSTEIN: I'll second, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7 MR. SHORT: With a friendly amendment
8 with an expectation that we'll have the final
9 contract 14 days ahead of time as we require.

10 MS. MILLER: And a week ahead of time for
11 final registration.

12 MR. SHORT: Right. That was my friendly
13 amendment.

14 MR. ALBERTI: Right.

15 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: Well, it's
16 understood that you're going to comply with the
17 emergency regulations. All right, those in favor
18 say aye. [chorus of ayes].

19 Those opposed. [No audible response.]
20 Okay, the matter passed 5-zero-zero.
21 Congratulations.

22 MS. CURRIE: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: That you have
2 maneuvered through this process and I hope it
3 wasn't as painful as it might appear. Thank you.
4 MR. ALBERTI: Thank you and it validates the fact
5 that we think this can be done in the time
6 period. As you saw, others seem to be having
7 troubles but thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: You ought to be
9 commended.

10 MR. SILVERSTEIN: Thank you, Ms. Currie.
11 In addition to navigating the path for yourself
12 you also carved one out for others.

13 MR. ALBERTI: Yes. Thank you.

14 MS. CURRIE: Thank you.

15 MR. SHORT: Very commendable.

16 CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON: All right thank
17 you.

18 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter was
19 concluded.)